

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component comprising:
 - a rotary knob assembled in a cutout of a front panel in an exposed state,
 - a thin faceplate having a display portion disposed around the rotary knob,
 - a holder for bonding and fixing an inner circumferential portion and an outer circumferential portion of a rear surface of the faceplate, and
 - a light source for emitting light from a rear side of the faceplate to the display portion,

wherein a region of the holder bonded to ~~the-a first~~ outer circumferential portion of the faceplate protrudes forward farther than a region of the holder bonded to the inner circumferential portion of the faceplate ~~by a predetermined amount~~, and an area in ~~the vicinity of the a second~~ outer circumferential portion of the faceplate is pressed by a protruding portion formed on ~~the-a rear~~ surface of the front panel.
2. (Original) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component according to Claim 1, wherein the protruding portion is continuously formed around the circumferential edge of the cutout of the front panel.
3. (New) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component according to claim 1, wherein a first annular portion of the holder is bonded to the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate and a second annular portion of the holder is bonded to the inner circumferential portion of the faceplate.
4. (New) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component according to

claim 3, wherein the circular region of contact between the protruding portion and the faceplate is at a smaller diameter than a region of the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate that is bonded to the first annular portion of the holder.

5. (New) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component according to claim 1, wherein a first circular contact area between the protruding portion and the second outer circumferential portion faceplate is spaced closer to the knob than a second circular contact area between the holder and the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate.

6. (New) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component according to claim 1, wherein a first circular contact area between the protruding portion and the second outer circumferential portion faceplate is spaced closer to the knob than a second circular contact area between the holder and the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate; and

wherein a first annular portion of the holder is bonded to the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate and a second annular portion of the holder is bonded to the inner circumferential portion of the faceplate.

7. (New) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component comprising:

- a rotary knob assembled in a cutout of a front panel in an exposed state,
- a thin faceplate having a display portion disposed around the rotary knob,
- a holder for bonding and fixing an inner circumferential portion and an outer circumferential portion of a rear surface of the faceplate, and
- a light source for emitting light from a rear side of the faceplate to the display portion,

wherein a region of the holder bonded to a first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate protrudes forward farther than a region of the holder bonded to

the inner circumferential portion of the faceplate, and an area in a second outer circumferential portion of the faceplate is pressed by a protruding portion formed on a rear surface of the front panel;

wherein a first annular portion of the holder is bonded to the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate and a second annular portion of the holder is bonded to the inner circumferential portion of the faceplate; and

wherein the circular region of contact between the protruding portion and the faceplate is at a smaller diameter than the region of the outer circumferential portion of the faceplate that is supported by the first annular portion of the holder.

8. (New) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component comprising:

a rotary knob assembled in a cutout of a front panel in an exposed state,
a thin faceplate having a display portion disposed around the rotary knob,
a holder bonded to a rear surface of the faceplate at an inner circumferential portion and at an outer circumferential portion, and
a light source emitting light from a rear side of the faceplate to the display portion,

wherein a first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate bonded to the holder is vertically spaced relative to an inner circumferential portion of the faceplate bonded to the holder; and

wherein the front surface of the faceplate is pressed at a second outer circumferential portion by a protruding portion formed on a rear surface of the front panel.

9. (New) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component according to Claim 8, wherein the protruding portion is continuously formed around the circumferential edge of the cutout of the front panel.

10. (New) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component

according to claim 8, wherein a first annular portion of the holder is bonded to the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate and a second annular portion of the holder is bonded to the inner circumferential portion of the faceplate.

11. (New) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component according to claim 8, wherein a first circular contact area between the protruding portion and the second outer circumferential portion of the faceplate is spaced closer to the knob than a second circular contact area between the holder and the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate.

12. (New) An illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component according to claim 8, wherein a first circular contact area between the protruding portion and the second outer circumferential portion of the faceplate is spaced closer to the knob than a second circular contact area between the holder and the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate; and

wherein a first annular portion of the holder is bonded to the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate and a second annular portion of the holder is bonded to the inner circumferential portion of the faceplate.